

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SMI-01 HEW-08 SCI-06 AID-20

ACDA-19 AEC-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20

IGA-02 SPM-01 DRC-01 /193 W
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R 081200Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3165

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 1681

DOD WASHDC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

DOA WASHDC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10544

DEPT PASS TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE FOR DILLON RIPLEY,
HEW FOR SURGEON GENERAL; DOD FOR DEPT OF ARMY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO IN

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON WHO AND US SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

1. SINCE NEW DELHI 10131 JULY 31 RELATIVELY LITTLE HAS APPEARED
IN THE INDIAN PRESS.

2. SOME EDITORIALS, BOTH IN ENGLISH AND
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS, APPEARED REBUTTING THE PTI SCIENCE
CORRESPONDENT ALLEGATIONS. TAMIL INDEPENDENT DAILY
SWADESHMITRAN COMMENT WAS TYPICAL: "THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO
REASON TO PROTEST AGAINST THE RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN BY WHO IN
INDIA AND THERE IS NO BASIS AT ALL FOR THE CHARGE THAT
AMERICA IS USING THE FINDINGS OF THIS RESEARCH FOR GERM WARFARE...

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THE RESEARCH THAT IS BEING CONDUCTED IN INDIA IS PRIMARILY

FOR INDIA'S BENEFIT. THE FINDINGS ARE ALSO PUBLISHED IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS. HENCE THERE IS NO SECRECY ABOUT IT." SIMILAR OPINIONS WERE REFLECTED IN OTHER EDITORIALS, INCLUDING TIMES OF INDIA, THE MAIL, TAMIL DAILY DINAMANI, AND TELUGU DAILY ANDHRA PATRIKA.

3. TWO LETTERS TO THE EDITORS APPEARED. THE NATIONAL HERALD OF AUGUST 1 PUBLISHED A LETTER FROM ASHOK VARMA OF NEW DELHI WHICH IS A FRONTAL ATTACK ON THE PTI CORRESPONDENT REPORT. HE WROTE IN PART: "I AM SURPRISED THAT YOU (THE NEWSPAPER) THOUGHT IT FIT TO GIVE VENT TO THE MUD-SLINGING EFFORTS OF A PTI CORRESPONDENT." HE ASSERTED THAT THE RESEARCH RESULTS ARE "NOT SECRETLY PASSED ON TO ANY INDIVIDUAL OR AGENCY."

4. LETTER FROM SALIM ALI, PRESIDENT OF THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN LEADING ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THE HINDU, TIMES OF INDIA, FREE PRESS JOURNAL, THE MAIL, AND STATESMAN. HE ANSWERED THE THREE SPECIFIC CHARGES LEVELLED AGAINST THE SOCIETY. IT IS HOPED HIS LETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

5. THE HINDUSTAN STANDARD OF CALCUTTA REPORTED AUGUST 5 THAT THE WEST BENGAL HEALTH MINISTER AJIT PANJA ORDERED AN ENQUIRY INTO CHARGES AGAINST WHO AND THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY. THE REPORT SAID THE ENQUIRY REVEALED THAT THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS ARE RENDERING "OPEN, HARMLESS AND IMMENSELY USEFUL SERVICE" TO THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL. A SIMILAR REPORT APPEARED IN THE TIMES OF INDIA ON AUGUST 6.

6. THE HINDU OF AUGUST 7 CARRIED ON EDIT-PAGE A BYLINER BY SCIENTIST DR. R V RAJAM ENTITLED "RESEARCH PROJECT ON MOSQUITOES." DR. RAJAM WROTE THAT HE FOUND THE PTI REPORT "EMBARRASSING EQUALLY TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN INDIA AND THE U.S." HE CONCLUDED: "ONE HAS TO ENJOY THE HUMOR, DISCERNING THE PATHOS BEHIND IT, OF THE HAZARDS OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS BY SCIENTISTS WHEN UNFAIR NEWSPAPER CRITICISMS ARE ADDED TO THE LIST."

7. WE EXPECT THAT A GOI WHITE PAPER WILL BE PRESENTED SOON TO PARLIAMENT. WE WILL SEE WHAT PUBLICITY THAT

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ENGENDERS. HOWEVER, REBUTTALS, GOOD AS THEY ARE, DO NOT GET FRONT PAGE SPREADS AS DID THE ACCUSATIONS.

8. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE OF THE LAST FEW DAYS APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 4 NATIONAL HERALD, STATING THAT OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECTS, BOTH INDIAN AND AMERICAN AIDED AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR, WERE IRRELEVANT TO INDIA AND OF BENEFIT TO THE USA. AIR FORCE,

BUREAU OF STANDARDS, AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
FINANCED PROJECTS WERE SINGLED OUT, UNNAMED FACULTY
MEMBERS REQUESTED AN INQUIRY INTO THE "NOT SO INNOCENT"
ACTIVITIES OF TWO AMERICANS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN IN A
FAMILY PLANNING PROJECT WITH DR. B.D. MISRA. AND SO IT
GOES.MOYNIHAN

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